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FACT SHEET

PROPOSED STAY OF EPA'S SECONDARY ALUMINUM PRODUCTION NATIONAL EMISSION STANDARDS FOR HAZARDOUS AIR POLLUTANTS FOR ALUMINUM DIE CASTING FACILITIES AND ALUMINUM FOUNDRIES AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO PROPOSE ALTERNATE NATIONAL EMISSION STANDARDS FOR HAZARDOUS AIR POLLUTANTS FOR ALUMINUM DIE CASTING FACILITIES AND ALUMINUM FOUNDRIES

TODAY'S ACTIONS

- ! The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to stay its air toxics rule for secondary aluminum production as it applies to aluminum die casting facilities and aluminum foundries.
- ! Also today, EPA is issuing a notice announcing the Agency's plan to propose new air toxics standards for the aluminum die-casting and aluminum foundry industries.
- ! Air toxics, also known as hazardous air pollutants, are those pollutants known or suspected to cause cancer and other serious health problems in humans.
- ! Aluminum die casting facilities receive molten aluminum or melt solid aluminum, and pour or inject the molten metal into a permanent die to produce a casting. Aluminum foundry facilities receive molten aluminum or melt solid aluminum and pour molten metal into a mold to produce a casting.
- ! Aluminum die casting facilities and aluminum foundries affected by the existing secondary aluminum production air toxics rule are those that obtain aluminum other than "clean charge," and/or those that operate thermal chip dryers, scrap dryers, delacquering kilns, decoating kilns or sweat furnaces.
- ! EPA is proposing the stay to reduce the compliance burden of the existing rule on aluminum die casters and aluminum foundry operators, who will have to comply with the new standards once those are developed.
- ! Once the proposed stay becomes final, aluminum die casters and aluminum foundry operators presently subject to EPA's air toxics standards for secondary aluminum production will not be required to comply with those standards. EPA will finalize today's proposal once the Agency has proposed standards for aluminum die-casting facilities and aluminum foundries.

- ! As it prepares to propose air toxics standards for aluminum die casting facilities and aluminum foundries, EPA will collect information from individual companies and facilities about site-specific operating practices, emission control devices, emission control costs and applicable regulations.

BACKGROUND

- ! The Clean Air Act requires EPA to regulate sources of 188 air toxics. Air toxics emitted during secondary aluminum production vary by facility and operation but may include up to 11 metals, organic compounds including dioxins and furans, and acid gases such as hydrogen chloride and chlorine. The health effects associated with these air toxics can include cancer, respiratory irritation and nervous system damage.
- ! EPA issued air toxics standards for the secondary aluminum production in December 1999 (rule published in the Federal Register March 23, 2000.) These standards apply to plants that recover aluminum from scrap, such as beverage cans, foundry returns, dross and other aluminum scrap, including certain aluminum die casting facilities and aluminum foundries.
- ! When EPA issued the secondary aluminum production air toxics rule, the Agency announced that it would gather additional information about aluminum die casting facilities and aluminum foundries and then reevaluate its requirements and the economic impact on small businesses in these industries in light of this information.
- ! In a petition for judicial review filed in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, a number of aluminum foundry operators and aluminum die casters said EPA may have relied on incomplete information and assumptions when it issued its secondary aluminum standards in December 1999. Today's proposal addresses the issues raised in that petition.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- ! To download today's proposal or the final air toxics rule for secondary aluminum manufacturing, go to EPA's site on the World Wide Web at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg>, then click on "Recent Actions."
- ! For more information about today's rule, contact Mr. Juan Santiago of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-1084.
- ! The EPA's Office of Air and Radiation's (OAR's) home page on the Internet contains a wide range of information on the air toxics program and many other air pollution programs and issues. The OAR's home page address is: <http://www.epa.gov/oar>.